

WHITE PIGEON TOWNSHIP BOARD

April 1, 2025

The regular meeting of the White Pigeon Township Board was held on April 1, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the White Pigeon Township Hall located at 16975 US 12, White Pigeon, Michigan. Agendas and staff reports were available.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Jason Trosper at 6:00 p.m. Supervisor Trosper did roll call. Those in attendance were Supervisor Jason Trosper, Clerk Lacie Pletcher, Treasurer Anita Casada, and Trustees Amy Snook and Sheila Kroupa.

AGENDA: Motion by Pletcher, seconded by Kroupa, to approve the agenda with an amendment to add Vince Schroen to item 7, A. All in favor, motion carried.

MINUTES: The board reviewed the minutes of the March 4, 2025, regular meeting. Motion by Kroupa, seconded by Trosper, to approve the minutes as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Motion by Pletcher, seconded by Trosper, to approve the financial statements. Those in favor by roll call vote were: Sheila Kroupa, Anita Casada, Jason Trosper, Amy Snook and Lacie Pletcher. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: There was a motion by Kroupa, seconded by Trosper, to have the clerk pay all normal billings as presented. Those in favor by roll call vote were: Amy Snook, Sheila Kroupa, Anita Casada, Jason Trosper and Lacie Pletcher. Motion carried.

VINCE SCHROEN: Vince Schroen asked about the road projects for 2025. Supervisor Trosper said that the majority of our road money for the fiscal year will be used on Dickinson, then chip and seal and after those projects are quoted, we will see what funds remain.

OLD BUSINESS: Trosper presented a job description for the office assistant. He also presented mowing/trimming bids for the Township Hall/ Fire Department which were between \$90-\$100 per mow/trim. The lowest bid being Custom Lawn Care who currently provides services and did not charge for turning the irrigation system on in the Spring and Winterizing and turning it off in the fall. There was a motion by Trosper, seconded by Casada to accept the bid by Custom Lawn Care for the Township Hall and Fire Department for mowing/trimming. Those in favor by roll call vote were: Amy Snook, Sheila Kroupa, Anita Casada, Jason Trosper and Lacie Pletcher. Motion carried. He also presented bids for mowing/trimming of the cemetery that were between \$800-\$1,650 per mow. He informed the citizens of the expense of the Township Cemetery Crew to maintain the cemetery by wages, cost of replacing and serving the equipment each year and the savings of outsourcing it. This created a lot of concern among audience members so Trosper tabled a board decision until after public comment.

NEW BUSINESS: There will be a budget workshop meeting on April 24, 2025, at 3 p.m. Trosper was able to get in touch with Patrick Hudson about the Master Plan and discussing a few changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kathy Bontrager/ Jones said she is thrilled with the care at the cemetery, her late husband is there and the care that the current cemetery workers take is personal. Even out of towners compliment how beautiful our cemetery is maintained.

Roger Jones said he is new to the area and he is just amazed at how beautiful and pristine the cemetery is and it makes it soothing and comforting to visit. Daniel Carr said he grew up across the street and still currently lives there so it is personal to him. He also said Vince and his crew do a fantastic job and he frequently has passersby's ask who cares for it because it's so beautiful. He wants everyone to know that the sticks, leaves and other things that are done several times a week will not be done by the low bidder. He's never had a complaint and that speaks for itself. Gayle VanSingle asked if we currently pay the Village a contract for plowing at the Township Hall, Fire Department, and Cemetery if the Cemetery has a plow and mowers why not save money there and use the Cemetery crew to do the work and save money there. Sue Grant said the Cemetery is a highlight of the town, it's so beautiful when she visits, she's happy not sad. Serena Wolf said she works for another township and we should keep in mind right now we have a lot of control of the care there will be a loyalty issue. Vickie Schroen said the Cemetery is near and dear to her heart because her dad was the Sexton for 45 years, her dad and his dad also took care of the Mottville Cemetery. To take care of the graves of those who went before us is an honor to be able to do, she makes frequent checks of the cemetery to help Vince. Vince said most of his time there besides preparing a grave site is spent trimming his care is personal. He said he understands the fiscal responsibility but don't substitute a few thousand dollars for the care we currently have. Bob Battjes said he thinks there is a potential of huge savings consolidating the cost of the mowing and plowing at the hall by allowing the cemetery crew to do the work. Mike Jurek said the board is being mindful with our dollars and cents but we currently have a crew that have their hearts in what they're doing and you can't replace that.

Nicole Ritchie from the MSU Extension Office introduced herself, she is a field crop educator that services St. Joseph County. She provides services, education, field visits and many other services to farmers. St. Joseph County is her primary office but she also services seven other counties and she's been with MSU Extension office for one year. Nicole left her contact information as a resource to be kept at the township hall.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER: After much discussion and consideration motion by Snook, seconded by Pletcher to not contract with Custom Lawn Care for the Township Hall and Fire Department for mowing/trimming. We will allow the Cemetery crew to pick up the mowing, trimming, and plowing to offer a savings to the township since we already have the equipment and man power to do the work. Those in favor by roll call vote were: Amy Snook, Sheila Kroupa, Jason Trosper and Lacie Pletcher. No: Anita Casada. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

ZONING AND ORDINANCE OFFICERS REPORT: Mixon's report was received. The Merritt property is now close but he will monitor their continued progress. The Keenan case has been turned over to the Township Attorney.

ZONING AND ORDINANCE OFFICERS REPORT: Mixon's report was received. He is still working on St. Joseph Street. He issued another thirty-day extension for clean-up because of the

cold temperatures many items were frozen to the ground. The property at Grass Lake will be going up for tax auction so we have decided to not waste any more money on attorney fees to deal with this property which has been an issue for a long time.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: No new business. Next meeting April 7, 2025.

SEWER BOARD REPORT: They applied for the solar panel grant.

BOARD OF REVIEW (BOR) REPORT: Meetings on March 10th and 11th went well and they had about 22 residents present.

FIRE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT: No new business. Next meeting April 15, 2025.

CEMETERY REPORT: Vince Schroen's reported asking if the board will continue to purchase the military marker flags and replace the flag on the flag pole yearly. He asked again if we could look into getting a fuel card for the truck. He's removed the snow stakes, picked up many loads of debris and branches from the storm and had three burials.

AMBULANCE REPORT: No new business. Next meeting May 20, 2025.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Casada reported that as of March 1, 2025, the County Treasurer is now handling the collection of delinquent taxes. We will be notified of all delinquent payment collected on our behalf. Between the Township and Village there is over a million dollars delinquent. She told of the disbursements she's made to White Pigeon Community Schools, Glen Oaks, White Pigeon Township Library, St. Joseph County, and others that are collected on the winter tax bills. She is working on the closeout reports and the final disbursements for 2024.

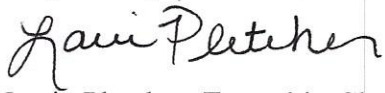
OFFICE COORDINATOR/COLLECTION AGENT REPORT: In addition to general office support there were 25 dump passes issued and 28 per permits issued for March.

CLERK'S REPORT: All permanent absentee ballots for the May 6, 2025 school election have been mailed as of March 24, 2025. You can request an absentee ballot online or at the office. There is no early voting for special elections but required weekend hours will be May 4, 2025, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Public Accuracy Test will be April 17, 2025, at 10 a.m. White Pigeon Township Hall will be the voting site for in person voting on May 6, 2025 for Sheman, Mottville, Florence and Constantine Townships that have voters in White Pigeon Community School District.

BOARD COMMENTS & SUMMARY: Sheila Kroupa spoke of her public duty and involvement in other issues and hopes we can all look to support each other. Jason Trosper asked when attending other local meeting we are respectful. Amy Snook complimented the Fire Department on the road closures the put into place during fires and accidents.

Motion by Trosper, seconded by Snook, to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. There being no more business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned at. 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lacie Pletcher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Lacie Pletcher, Township Clerk